

A Letter which Monsieur Desdiguieres
Constable of *France*, hath sent to the King his Master,
to perswade him by pregnant Reasons to make Peace
with the Rochellers, and the other Protestants which
live in his Dominions, and to shew how necessary it is
that the King of *France* enter in league with
the Protestants and other Potentates, Princes and
States of Christendome to make warre against
Spaine to hinder the King of Spaine
from the vniuersall Monar.
chie to which hee
aspireth.

The lading of two Hollandish Ships which are come
from *Porto Ricco*, which Towne the *Hollanders*
haue taken in the West Indies.

The censure and condemnation of a Booke
(lately written by a Iesuite, *De Potestate Papa*)
by the Court of Parliament, which hath
been since publikely burned
at Paris.

The strange death of Peter Cotton a Iesuite.

The new Admiraltie which is to be erected both in
Spaine and the subdued Prouinces of the Low-coun-
tries to the great hurt and damage of severall
Potentates, Princes and States of
Christendome, vnlesse they
looke in good time
to themselves.

Printed for *Mercurius Britanicus.*

1626.

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A Letter which *Monsieur Desdiguieres* Constable of France hath sent to the King his Master to perswade him by pregnant reasons to make peace with the *Rochellers*, and the other Protestants which live in his Dominions, and to shew how necessarie it is that the King of France enter in League with the Protestants and other Potentates; Princes and States of Christendome to make warre against Spaine, to hinder the King of Spaine from the Vniuersall Monarchie to which hee aspireth.

S I R,

THe Baron of Copet hauing informed me few dayes agoe of the present state of the affaires of Rochel, and *Arsens* the Extraordinary Embassadour which the States haue sent to your Maiesty, hauing added to it the dispatch which I send with this present, I haue thought my selfe bound, both by reason of the importance of the matter, & in regard of the affection which I haue had alwayes to the good of your seruice, to supplicate and beseech your Maiesty, that you will be pleased to find good that I shew vnto you, with all the respect I can, that although the obstinacie of this people is excessiue, & that it seemeth that nothing can be added to their hardnesse, your prudence may neuerthelesse

theleſſe keepe backe the effects of the reſolutions, which a juſt anger hath made you to take, and make you to deferre them till another occaſion, to ſhew the diſpleaſure and diſcontentment which you haue conceiued againſt them: for I aſſure you that it is as true as the light ſhineth, that if your Maieſty will ſuffer diſſention to grow in your State, that he giueth the game wonne to the *Spaniards*, and openeth vnto them the gate to the Vniuerſall Monarchie. It is you Sir that can hinder them from comming to it, and this ſame reaſon moueth all other powers of Chriſtendome to relie vpon yours: without the ayde which they haue, and expect from you in this occaſion, all their reſiſtance is in vaine. And if according to the ayme and ſcope of this common Enemy, the domeſticke occupation diuert you from it, they ſhall be in danger to carry the yoke which they ſhun, and your Maieſties ſelfe ſhall put your State in hazard to fall into great inconueniences. I write not this to excuſe them in any manner, whoſe diſobeiſance hath made them guiltie, and for aſmuch as concerneth the *Rochellers*, I leaue not to condemne them with all the
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rigours of the World : For it is certaine that they haue committed a crime, of which after your Majesty, God hath reserved the vengeance vnto himselfe. For I hold Sir, that they ought to acknowledge you absolutely, and with an obeyesance without any condition, & that they are bound to doe vnto you all endeouours of good, and faithfull subjects. But it is likewise certain, that as you are one of the wisest Kings of the World, you may vse in this matter your Royall prudence, and practise this necessary course, which seemeth to bee a part of the Royall Functions. Now forasmuch as concerneth your state, to kinde the warre in the same, is to open the gate vnto the *Spaniards*, and (I beseech you Sir) doubt not that they labour with all their power to increase it. The like causes haue in former times brought it into such confusions that the end of them hath hardly beene scene after the expiration of fifty yeeres : The same hath at other times caused all the disorders & mischiefes, which could not otherwise be remedied then by the valor of the late king your Father. I doubt not but that amongst them which haue the honour to come neere to
your

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your Majesty, there are some which will labour to make suspect the aduice and counsell which I giue, and will metamorphose my sinceritie into a secret support of the Rebels. But I giue thanks vnto God, that your Majestie will not bee carried away with false impressions, which others will conceiue to the prejudice of your Majesties loyall seruants. The time it selfe justifieth enough that my counsels haue no other scope then your Majesties seruice. But neither that which may bee said to disguise and disgrace my faithfull intentions, nor that which may bee inuented by ill minded persons, who labour to make me vnprofitable and vnseruiceable, shall neuer bee able to hinder mee from giuing your Majestie to vnderstand (as I am bound) my true mind: And I shall not leaue to protest (to discharge my conscience) that such as will counsel your Majesty to beare armes against *Rochell*, and to kindle the warre, which will shortly become a generall warre, doe neither well counsell, or serue your Majesty. For although it is belieued, that it will come neither in *Languedock* nor in *Guienne*, the contrary is already seene. And I am sure that your
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Maieſty knoweth that which is done in one of thoſe Prouinces : In another occaſion if they doe not mend themſelues, you ſhall alwayes haue the ſame power, yea, (if it may ſo be ſpoken) you ſhall haue better meanes, and it may bee that in the meane time they ſhall come to the acknowledgement of their endeouours. Moreouer, I may ſay that your Maieſty hauing atchieued with glory the affaires of *Italy*, you may triumph at one time ouer two enemies; namely, the Domesticke and Forreine, in lieu that if you will rather expell the other, then ſubdue theſe, you ſhall loſe the preſent aduantages which neuer had any of all the Kings your Predeceſſours. It may pleaſe your Maieſty to pardon me, and to attribute the freedome of my diſcourſe to the affection which I beare to your Maieſty. I expect your anſwere concerning this matter, and pray God that hee will replenish you with all manner of graces and fauours.

*Your Maieſties moſt humble, moſt obey-
ſant and moſt faithfull ſubiect,
and ſeruant,*

DESDIGVIERES.

Turin the 24. of December 1625.

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**The lading of two *Hollandish* Ships,
which are come from *Porto Ricco*
with good prizes.**

***In the one Ship are twelue bags with
2400. Rials of eight.***

- 1. bagge with three pounds of Siluer.
- 1. A Crosse of Siluer.
- 51. Chests with Sugar.
- 40. Last, or eighty tunnes of Ginger.
- 12. Hides.
- 23. Chests with Tobacco.
- 6. Chests with Money of Brasse.
- 6. Basons of Copper.
- 1. Chest with Copper.

In the other are

- 2200. Hides.
- 172. Bales of Ginger.
- 4. Double Chests of Sugar.
- 18. Iron Peecces of Ordnance.
- 1. Barrell with Steele.
- 2. Chests with Frankincense.
- 2000. Rials of eight.

The new Admiralty which is to be erected both in *Spaine* and the subdued Prouinces of the *Low-Countries*, to the great hurt and dammage of seuerall Potentates, Princes, and States of Christendome, vnles it be timely preuented.

I.

Seeing that it is the mind and will of our gracious Lord & King, to vse all means, which may tend and serue to increase the traffick and trading betwixt our Subiects of the kingdomes of *Spaine*, and them of his Maiesties hereditary *Netherlands*, intending to erect and augment thereby both the olde and new workmanships, and such as may yet be found out, and to further the sale of them which shall bee made in those Lands, which are vnder his subiection: As likewise to hinder that the workmanships and merchandizes of the Rebels be not brought and sold in the afore-mentioned Lands of *Spaine* by deceit, or any colour, or pretext whatsoever.

His Maiesty hath found good and fitting to ordaine, that all the goods, wares, manu-

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factures

factures and merchandizes of these Lands, shall be laden in the ports of the same, to be caryed thence into *Spaine*.

I I. And to doe this conueniently, & with more security, and that the goods of *Spaine* may in the same maner be brought into the Ports of the aforementioned Lands which are vnder his Maiesties subiection; his Maiesty hath beene pleased to grant by a Patent (dated *Octob. 4. 1624.*) to his faithfull subiects of these Lands, both to them which dwel in *Spaine* and here, that they may erect & make a Company for trading and trafficke, vnder the name and title of Admiralty.

I II. That they shall haue leaue to arme, & set forth vnder the same name & title of Admiralty, in the first beginning of it, the number of 24 men-of-warre, to serue them in the aforesaid trading and trafficke.

I III. In which ships onely such shal haue power to lade their goods, and none else, as shall haue contributed to the setting forth of them, and be inrolled in the Company, or Admiralty: with this aduantage, that the danger of the Sea and enemy, shall be at the generall charge of the Company, vpon condition

dition, that the owners of the goods shal pay such a *premio* or reward to the Company, as in reason shall be appointed by common voyces.

V. It is his Maiesties will, that all the manufactures which shalbe laden or imbarcked in these Lands, in the ships of the aforementioned Admiralty, ariuing in *Spaine*, shall be esteemed and receiued as free goods, & true manufactures of these Lands which are vnder the subiection of his Maiefty, so that in *Spaine* there shall not be made any search, inquiry, trouble or hindrance to them, considering that the diligence and care which shall be taken in these Lands shal be accounted sufficient to auoid all manner of deceit.

VI. The same shall likewise be obserued in regard of all other wares and merchandizes, which shall here be laden in the aforementioned ships of the Admiralty.

VII. And no manufactures of these lands which shall not be laden or imbarcked in the Ports which are vnder his Maiesties subiection, but be sent through other Lands, shall be admitted into *Spaine*, but to the contrary, be arrested and confiscated.

VIII. To aid this designe, and to ease the sayd Admiralty of the charges of the afore-said ships, which it is to vndergoe, and to re-paire the dammages and losses which may now and then happen, his Maiesty hath consented that the afore-mentioned Admiralty shall receiue and take one in the hundred of all the goods which shall eyther come in or goe out of the ports of *Andalusia*, and of the Kingdome of *Granado*, which shall eyther be caryed Northwards, as namely towards *France, England, Flanders, East-land, &c.* or be brought thence into the afore-said ports of *Spaine*.

IX. Which one in the hundred, amounteth now (notwithstanding there is but little trading) to about 90000 Ducats *per Annum*, and may bee augmented and increased to 3. in the hundred, when the aforesayd Company, or Admiralty shal be setled within this Land.

X. Moreouer, his Maiesty giueth to the same Admiralty fourty thousand of Ducats *per Annum*, the which summe, is to be found and paid according to the content of the said Grant.

XI. And

XI. And the afore-mentioned Admiralty shall likewise haue power to lay such a taxation and charge vpon the goods that shall be imbarked in these Lands, as shall bee thought reasonable in consideration of the customes, charges, and impositions which the same goods are to beare when they are sent through *France, &c.*

XII. Also, the fraughts of all the goods, which shall be transported to what place soeuer by the ships of the Admiralty, shall belong to the Company.

XIII. Besides all this, it is the intention of his maiesty, to transport to the said Admiraltie, by a contract the Merchandizes called in *Sprine, Mercaderias de Rey*, as namely, Salt, Spices, Cochineil, Wooll, Hides, and other; or such sort, and part as the Admiraltie shall thinke fit to accept of, and all the gaine that shall be made by them, shall be for the good of the company of the Admiraltie.

XIIII. Which seuerall parcells of reuenues and profits shall farre exceed the yeerly charges for the maintenance of the afore-mentioned foure and twentie ships.

XV. With-

X V. Without making any account of the confiscations, & other aduantages which his Maiefty is granting to the said Admiralty, by the said Grant, or Patent. Among which aduantages, it is no small thing to be accounted, that it is his Maiesties wil and desire, that his subiects of these his obeisant Lands, and their children, which shall haue part in this Company or Admiralty, shall bee preferred to all dignities and offices, which shall be vacant in these *Netherlands*, and sort with their quality; if they shall demand them, & serue them in their owne persons.

XVI. In such manner, that they which cause themselves to be inrolled in this Company may expect both profit and honor.

XVII. For the erecting of which the *Netherlanders* which are resident in *Sivil*, haue made a beginning, by forming of their Colledge (or Court) and in setting forth diuers good ships, for the seruice of the generall Company.

XVIII. So that to bring this Admiralty to a full effect, and a beginning of Nauigation may be made, there wants nothing else, but that here in these Lands there be made a
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Company of all such as will come into it, and haue their part and share therein, who may henceforth declare themselues, to the intent that out of them may be chosen such a number as shalbe necessary for the direction and administration of the sayd Admiralty, which shall haue her chiefe Colledge in the City of *Antwerp*.

XIX. Which Directors or Deputies shall with the consent of the Deputies that are in *Sivil*, & after communication with the common participants in the Company, ordayne a forme and manner how they may keepe their correspondency, and diuide the profits of the sayd Company.

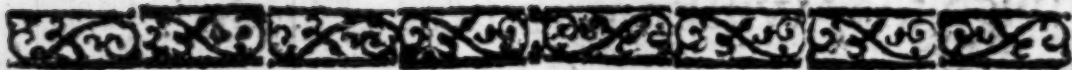
XX. This being done to the full contentment of euery one, and a good order made for the gouernment of the said Admiralty, and not before, shall such persons which will be declared as participants declare how much they will contribute and lay in it; the which may not be lesse, but more then the summe of

From

From Paris, March 22.

For Newes here we haue not much: Only we heare for certaine of a great Inundation at Sivill in Spaine, which hath done an irrecoverable hurt. Six dayes since was here burnt a booke *De potestate Papa*, Printed at Rome, & there written by one *Sanctarellus* a Iesuite, allowed of by the Provinciall: about which booke here is like to bee much adoe among the Iesuites, for they were called before the Councell some five dayes since, where being demanded if they would allow of the said booke, *Cotton* the great Iesuite desired that they might haue three dayes respite for their answer: which three dayes being expired, and the Councell expecting them, they appeared not. The Councell being much incensed against them, sent an expresse messenger, charging them at that instant to come along with the sayd messenger: but *Cotton* the chiefe being in a perplexity vpon his bed desired the messenger to haue him excused to the Councell, for he found himselfe not well. The Messenger hauing deliuered his strict message to bring them with him *Cotton* fell into a trance, and the same day dyed. Most men thinke the Iesuites haue but a little while to stay in France.

F I N I S.



Diguières, M.